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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

< [flexi-](#)[flexile](#) >**flex·i·ble** (flĕk'sə-bəl) [KEY](#)

ADJECTIVE:

1.

- a. Capable of being bent or flexed; pliable.
- b. Capable of being bent repeatedly without injury or damage.

2. Susceptible to influence or persuasion; tractable.

3. Responsive to change; adaptable: *a flexible schedule*.

ETYMOLOGY:

From Latin *flexibilis*, from *flexus*, past participle of *flectere*, *to bend*

OTHER FORMS:

flex'i·bil'i·ty or **flex'i·ble·ness** (*Noun*), **flex'i·bly** (*Adverb*)

SYNONYMS:

flexible , ***elastic*** , ***resilient*** , ***supple***

These adjectives refer literally to what is capable of withstanding stress without injury and figuratively to what can undergo change or modification: *a flexible wire; flexible plans; an elastic rubber band; an elastic interpretation of the law; thin, resilient copper; a resilient temperament; supple suede; a supple mind*.

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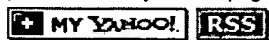
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Word of the Day

purify

Definition: (verb) to make pure, clean, or perfect.

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< [resiliency](#)[resilin](#) >**re-sil-ient** (rĭ-zĭl'yənt) [KEY](#)**ADJECTIVE:**

1. Marked by the ability to recover readily, as from misfortune.
2. Capable of returning to an original shape or position, as after having been compressed. See Synonyms at [flexible](#).

ETYMOLOGY:Latin *resiliens*, *resilient*- present participle of *resilire*, *to leap back*; see [resile](#)**OTHER FORMS:****re-sil'ient-ly** (*Adverb*)[Thesaurus: synonyms for resilient](#)

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

[< elastase](#)
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e·las·tic (ĭ-lās'tĭk) [KEY](#)

ADJECTIVE:

1.

 a. Easily resuming original shape after being stretched or expanded; flexible. See Synonyms at [flexible](#).

b. Springy; rebounding.

 2. [Physics](#) Returning to or capable of returning to an initial form or state after deformation.

 3. Quick to recover, as from disappointment: *an elastic spirit*.

4. Capable of adapting to change or a variety of circumstances.

NOUN:

1.

a. A flexible stretchable fabric made with interwoven strands of rubber or an imitative synthetic fiber.

b. An object made of this fabric.

2. A rubber band.

ETYMOLOGY:

 New Latin elasticus, from Late Greek elastos, *beaten*,

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< vinyl

vinyl chloride >

vi·nyl (vī'nəl) [KEY](#)

NOUN:

1. The univalent chemical radical CH_2CH , derived from ethylene.
2. Any of various compounds containing the vinyl radical, typically highly reactive, easily polymerized, and used as basic materials for plastics.
3. Any of various typically tough, flexible, shiny plastics, often used for coverings and clothing.
4. Phonograph records considered as a group: *a secondhand store that buys and sells vinyl.*

IDIOM:

on vinylIn the medium of phonograph recordings: *an old song available only on vinyl.*

ETYMOLOGY:

vin(i)- + -yl

OTHER FORMS:

vi·nyl'ic (-nīl'ik) [KEY](#) (*Adjective*)

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